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EUCA 58-977

COPY

26 May 1958

TO: Chief, [REDACTED]

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FROM: Chief, [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: General - Operational
Specific - Cache Recovery, [REDACTED]

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1. During the week of 18 May 1958 one element of the [REDACTED] neutral cache was recovered by a team composed by members of the [REDACTED] Operating Base Support Branch. The burial consisted of the following:

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RR-2A Serial #2499
RT-3 Serial #3143
RP-1 Serial #3023
GN-58 Serial #16386
RS-1 Spare parts kit
Cipher Pads, 9 encipher, 6 decipher
OGLINT 7, OGMORN8
15 Crystals
6 pistols
2 Jars ammunition
1 Medical Kit

2. This burial was made in December 1951. The soil at the burial site was composed of sandy loam over heavy clay.

3. All Communications items with the exception of the cipher pads, crystals and instructional documents were wrapped in wax-impregnated cloth (2 wrappings). The pads, crystals and instructional documents were placed in an ammunition can which was coated with a bituminous material. All items were then placed in a galvanized steel chest which had a removable cover. The chest was coated with a bituminous compound and the mating surfaces of the chest and cover were liberally smeared with eusmoline. The cover was not sealed to the chest and was easily removable. (Cover was also galvanized steel). The chest was enclosed in a lead lined wooden box. It is not known whether the lead lining was sealed.

4. The exhumation team reported that there was approximately one-half inch of water in the bottom of the lead-lined box. As the lead liner was not recovered it is not known whether this was caused by lack of sealing, poor sealing, chemical attack or mechanical damage in transit and handling prior to burial. A sample of the lead liner was recovered; it shows no sign of chemical attack. The lead sample (attached) has been pierced with a nail, presumably to attach it to the wooden box. The head of the nail has been covered with molten lead or solder. At one point on the periphery of the nail head there is a spot approximately 1/16 inch in diameter of what appears to be ferrous oxide. Examination of this spot indicates that the attack progressed along the nail from the outside, through the lead sheath, reacting finally on the nail head. No attempt was made to seal the exit hole of the nail.

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The effort to seal the nail head would indicate that the entire lead sheath had been sealed, however, the original packaging records do not reveal if this is true or not. Possibly those concerned with the preparation of the burial package can recall the technique employed.

5. There were no visible signs of attack on the galvanized chest and cover. However, had the water level in the lead liner reached the cover it is doubtful that the chest would have had any degree of water-tight integrity.

6. The wax-impregnated cloth used to wrap individual items within the chest was found to be in excellent condition. The wax still retains its "tacky" feel. (Sample attached)

7. The radio components when unwrapped were found to be in new condition. There was no evidence of attack on any of the items. Exposed metal parts retained their original shine, paint was not blistered or scratched. The RS-1 worked perfectly. All crystals were active and produced the proper frequency. All paper such as pads and instructional documents were "bone dry". There was no odor of mold and the enclosed packages of silica-gel were dry.

8. The second burial of this cache, containing the signal plan, was not recovered. In view of the use of the EC-2 Container it is not felt that this burial would have the same durability as the exhumed unit. However, we shall attempt to have this second unit exhumed to provide us with additional information anent the durability of the EC-2 with regard to the specific environmental parameters to which it has been exposed.

9. While the condition of the buried material was found to be excellent, it should be borne in mind that the cache was at least a two-man load and the container (chest) would have limited reuseability. Considering the materials available and the techniques then extant this must be considered an excellent cache.

FOR THE CHIEF,

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/s/

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DIST:

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2-

2-EE

2-

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2-TSS w/oatt

2-

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2-rile

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	TSS/Eng. Div. [REDACTED]		
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<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <p style="text-align: center;">Per your request 25 June 1958. Sorry for delay.</p>			
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
OC-O&T/SB [REDACTED]			26 June 58
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